

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6075

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6318

CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJ: CONTINUING CHRISTIAN PROTEST MEETINGS

1. SUNDAY, SEPT 22 MAJOR JOINT CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT
PROTEST PRAYER MEETING TOOK PLACE AT CATHOLIC
MYONG DONG COMMUNITY HALL WITH ESTIMATED 1,500 PERSONS
PARTICIPATING.

2. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED SEVERAL HUNDRED WORKERS
BROUGHT IN BY CATHOLIC YOUNG WORKERS AND URBAN INDUSTRIAL
MISSION, PARENTS AND RELATIVES OF IMPRISONED STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT
CLERGYMEN,. CATHOLIC YOUNG WORKERS CHAIRMAN LEE CHANG
BOCK READ ANTI-ROKGI STATEMENT, WHICH KCIA AGENT SOUGHT
UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONFISCATE. BOTH CATHOLIC AND
PROTESTANT CHURCH LEADERS SPOKE TO AUDIENCE. ACCORDING
CATHOLIC SOURCE, LEADERS OF MEETING HAD DIFFICULTY
RESTRAINING PARTICIPANTS FROM MOUNTING A PROTEST
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MARCH AFTER MEETING.

3. PRIOR TO MEETING BOTH VICAROF MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL AND KCIA AGENTS AGREEDTO PERMIT JOINT MEETING OF CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS. KCIA AGENTS REPORTEDLY GAVE CONSENT TO MEETING WHEN ASSURED NO PROTESTANT REPS WOULD BE PRESENT. HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF EARLIER AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARDINAL KIM AND NCCC-K GENERAL SECRETARY KIM KWAN SUK, PROTESTANT REPRESENTATIVES DID APPEAR AND SPOKE.

4. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, GROUP OF PROTESTANT WOMEN CONDUCTED PRAYER MEETING AT CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING BUILDING ON MORNING OF SEPT 23. PROTEST MARCH IS SCHEDULED IN WONJU SEPT 24, AND CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT PRAYER SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED IN SEOUL SEPTEMBER 26 WITH POSSIBLE ATTEMPTED PROTEST MARCHES IN CITY.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO CLEAR READING AS TO WHAT GOVERNMENT REACTION WILL BE TO INCREASING PACE OF CHRISTIAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, AT SUNDAY RALLY KCIA AGENTS AND POLICE (WHO WERE PRESENT IN STRENGTH)HANDLED SITUATION WITH MODERATION AND RESTRAINT. THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS TO PREVENT MEETING PARTICIPANTS FROM MOUNTING PROTEST ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY HALL. THIS THEY ACCOMPLISHED ESSENTIALLY THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND PERSUASION.
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